

SEC. 2. USE OF NEGATIVE CREDIT SUBSIDY FROM GENERAL AND SPECIAL RISK INSURANCE FUND PROGRAMS.

(a) GENERAL INSURANCE FUND.—Section 519 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1735c) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as subsections (f) and (g), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection:

“(e) USE OF NEGATIVE CREDIT SUBSIDY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any program for insuring mortgages or loans which are obligations of the General Insurance Fund that is determined for any fiscal year, for purposes of title V of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), to have costs (as defined in such title) of a negative amount, subject to paragraph (2), the amount of such negative credit subsidy shall be considered to be new budget authority provided in advance in an appropriations Act for such fiscal year and shall be available for covering the costs of making insurance commitments under any program for insurance for mortgages or loans under which such insurance is an obligation of the General Insurance Fund or the Special Risk Insurance Fund.

“(2) APPLICABILITY.—Paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to a fiscal year only if and beginning at such time that, during such fiscal year, all amounts of budget authority appropriated for such fiscal year to cover the costs of programs for insuring mortgages or loans which are obligations of the General Insurance Fund or the Special Risk Insurance Fund have been used to enter into commitments for such insurance.”.

(b) SPECIAL RISK INSURANCE FUND.—Section 238 of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715z-3) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

“(c) USE OF NEGATIVE CREDIT SUBSIDY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any program for insuring mortgages or loans which are obligations of the Special Risk Insurance Fund that is determined for any fiscal year, for purposes of title V of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), to have costs (as defined in such title) of a negative amount, subject to paragraph (2), the amount of such negative credit subsidy shall be considered to be new budget authority provided in advance in an appropriations Act for such fiscal year and shall be available for covering the costs of making insurance commitments under any program for insurance for mortgages or loans under which such insurance is an obligation of the General Insurance Fund or the Special Risk Insurance Fund.

“(2) APPLICABILITY.—Paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to a fiscal year only if and beginning at such time that, during such fiscal year, all amounts of budget authority appropriated for such fiscal year to cover the costs of programs for insuring mortgages or loans which are obligations of the General Insurance Fund or the Special Risk Insurance Fund have been used to enter into commitments for such insurance.”.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SMALL BUSINESS COMPETITION PRESERVATION ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 20, 2000

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4945) to amend the Small Business Act to strengthen existing protections for small business participation in the Federal procurement contracting process, and for other purposes.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4945 which will amend the Small Business Act to strengthen existing protections for small business participation in the Federal procurement contracting process, and for other purposes. My support for this bill is based on my concern that larger businesses may be influencing activities to group or bundle requirements so that they exceed \$100K. Clearly, one of the original intents of the Small Business Act was to assist small businesses in competing for smaller Federal Government contracts. Ideally requirements under \$100K should be awarded to small businesses. However, loose interpretations of the statute and a tendency toward bundling have caused small businesses to be cut out of the procurement process.

The strength of this nation's economy is based on the contributions of small businesses. When these small businesses demonstrate that they have the ability to meet the requirements established in the contract, they should not be unfairly shut out of the process because of their size or lack of access. This legislation goes a long way toward eliminating the unfair practice of bundling a number of small contracts into one and awarding the contract to a larger business. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

RECOGNIZING HOLY NAME PARISH ON THEIR 140TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, in the years from the founding of Holy Name Parish in 1859 to this testimonial dinner in the new millennium, the community has witnessed many changes. One constant in the sea of change is the service and dedication of Holy Name Parish. The church established itself as a beacon of hope from its humble beginnings in the home of a local farmer to opening the first coeducational school in Cleveland.

Reverend Thomas V. O'Donnell unselfishly serves in the footsteps of the visionaries who came before him to shepherd the flock known as Holy Name Parish. As her spiritual leader he will guide the parish in continuing to accept her role as not only a monument of bricks and mortar but as a center of community life to the Harvard and Broadway area.

Be it resolved that I, STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, do hereby welcome the featured

speaker Bishop Anthony Pilla. May you be proud of the achievements of the last 140 years and may you prosper into the next millennium.

“Then to the place the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for His Name . . . And there rejoice before the Lord you God.” Dt. 12:12

MEDICARE PATIENT ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY ACT

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4395, the Medicare Patient Access to Technology Act which has been introduced by my colleagues JIM RAMSTAD of Minnesota and KAREN THURMAN of Florida.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4395 has one simple objective: to speed the delivery of new medical technologies to patients covered under the Medicare program. Unfortunately, under our current system, it now takes up to five years before Medicare beneficiaries have access to new medical technologies thanks to an outdated and inefficient system now in place at the Health Care Financing Administration—HCFA. This system, which is nearly 35 years old, cannot effectively deal with the rapid pace of Medical innovation and has been responsible for denying needy patients the products and technologies that improve and save lives.

In my district, Mr. Speaker, some of the most advanced medical research in the world is currently underway. Doctors and researchers at Mass. General Hospital, Children's Hospital, Boston University Medical Center and Tufts University School of Medicine are devoting their lives and careers to the development of new medical technologies that will help us live longer and more effectively treat a wide range of diseases.

Once these technologies are fully developed and approved by the FDA as “safe and effective” their availability in the health care setting is delayed by a major roadblock—HCFA, where the new medical product must wait years for bureaucrats to decide whether Medicare will cover and pay for this technology. According to a report released this summer, HCFA can take up to five years to come to these decisions. Five years of bureaucratic consideration, while our seniors and other Medicare beneficiaries wait and wait.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, Medicare recipients are not the only ones to suffer because of HCFA's flawed reimbursement system. Third party payers—insurers such as Blue Cross/Blue Shield and health maintenance organizations—take their cue from Medicare when it comes to reimbursing new medical products. So, this ineffective reimbursement system can and does have a much larger, negative impact on all of us.

Mr. Speaker, in the coming weeks, the House of Representatives will consider legislation aimed at addressing the shortcomings of the Medicare reforms contained in the Balanced Budget Refinement Act passed in the first session of this Congress. When we review this legislation, it is likely that we will be

asked to consider inclusion of the Medicare reimbursement reforms contained in H.R. 4395.

I urge my colleagues to support this effort and take advantage of this unique opportunity to modernize and streamline HCFA's reimbursement system for new medical technologies.

H.R. 4395 will require HCFA to: Provide Congress with an annual report on its national coverage actions; annually update the payment levels for new medical products to reflect changes in medical technologies and practice; establish new procedures for reimbursement of new diagnostic tests; and improve the coding process, expediting the processing of reimbursement decisions.

Mr. Speaker these changes will establish order and predictability to HCFA's Medicare reimbursement process and, more importantly, could reduce the amount of time it takes for new medical products to reach Medicare beneficiaries by one-half.

Before we conclude our work in the 106th Congress, let's take action to ensure that Medicare recipients can count on the many benefits of new medical technologies. Let's include the provisions of H.R. 4395 in the amendments to the Balanced Budget Refinement Act.

ONE YEAR AFTER TAIWAN'S DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 21, 2000

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Many of us still remember the horrific earthquake that hit Taiwan on September 21, 1999. More than 2400 people were killed, hundreds were seriously injured and missing and 100,000 people were left homeless. About 1,000 homes and businesses were destroyed. Property damage amounted to billions of U.S. dollars.

The Republic of China government was swift and efficient in its rescue efforts. Rescue and relief operations were carried out by local and international specialized teams from 21 countries. Now a year later, the Republic of China has fully recovered from its economic losses, and the government has done everything possible to help its quake victims. For those families with quake-related deceased members, they have received cash grants and for families with collapsed or half-collapsed houses, they have received special loans to help them rebuild their homes. The government, with the help of the private sector, has also set up shelters for affected families.

In addition, Republic of China President Chen Shui-bian on June 1 this year set up a cabinet-level commission to oversee all reconstruction efforts. This commission will have members from all government agencies and ministries, and the commission's goal is to ensure that all affected families will have the chance to resume the lives they led before the quake.

In short, the Republic of China government has spared no effort in helping its quake-af-

fected families. Its financial outlay in reconstruction has amounted to nearly US\$ 5 billion. Indeed, the quake brought out the best in the Taiwan people. It has accentuated their ability to overcome adversity. They have learned to deal with the trouble and get on with their lives.

INTRODUCTION OF A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING NANCY JOHNSON, A NATIVE OF DOWNERS GROVE, IL, ON WINNING THE FIRST GOLD MEDAL OF THE 2000 SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 22, 2000

Ms. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Nancy Johnson, a native of Downers Grove in the 13th Congressional District of Illinois, for making history this past weekend.

Nine years after being advised to retire due to nerve damage in her arms and legs, Nancy Johnson overcame the odds to win not just a gold medal, but the very first gold medal of the 2000 summer Olympic games in Sydney, Australia. Nancy struck gold in the women's 10 meter air rifle competition.

Like all Olympic events, the competition was tough and came down to the wire. In fact, it came down to the final 10 shots. Neither Nancy nor the 7 other final round competitors blinked, budged or crumbled under the pressure. But, when it was all over, Nancy had edged out Cho-Hyun Kang of Korea by two-tenths of a point.

But Nancy's story is even more impressive than her Olympic triumph. Her victory is the story of perseverance. Her medal-winning performance was the culmination of years of hard work, dedication, competitiveness and, most importantly, family.

Nancy first took up the sport of shooting as a teenager. She and her father, Ben Napolski, often shot together at the Downers Grove junior rifle club. Ben and Diane, Nancy's mom, also lent their support while she competed in numerous competitions, including the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta where she finished 36th in her sport. Tragically, Diane passed away before she could see her daughter's magnificent accomplishment. But Ben, and Nancy's husband Ken, were there in Sydney to provide support, advice and gold-winning embraces.

Nancy Johnson's Olympic performance and shooting achievements also have helped to raise the level of awareness and appreciation for women's sports throughout the United States. Her love for a sport not typically associated with women serves as an inspiration for all of us, regardless of age or gender, to participate in activities we might not otherwise. Her performance also reminds us that participation in sport provides women, as well as men, with a means to gain the experiences, self-confidence and skills that are needed to succeed in all other endeavors.

Nancy's gold medal-winning performance epitomizes the goals and ideals of the Olym-

pics. These goals, which have not changed since antiquity, include a commitment to a goal, grace under pressure, unity, perseverance, fair play and good will toward fellow competitors. Most of all, her performance teaches us that Olympic competition is about the quest for excellence.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, Nancy Johnson has honored her family, her native home town of Downers Grove, her native state of Illinois and her country through her dedication to excellence and high achievement. More important, this young woman has left her mark in history. I ask that my colleagues join me in saluting her achievement and all that for which it stands.

CONGRATULATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF TEAM8 COMMUNITIES COALITION

HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 22, 2000

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great enthusiasm that I rise today to commend a very special group from my district. The TEAM8 Communities Coalition, a community partnership comprised of the eight cities of Adrian, Albion, Belleville, Milan, Romulus, Saline, Sumpter, and Van Buren has made great advances in combating juvenile crime. These outstanding communities came together three years ago to build a model strategic defense against the escalation of drug-use and youth violence in the State of Michigan. Within that three year span, the communities have delivered prevention education services and youth development activities to more than 56,000 school children, reducing juvenile crime over 50 percent and in-school incidents by 75 percent.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that TEAM8 will continue to make great strides in the fight to rid our communities of juvenile crime. Again, I commend TEAM8 and I wish all the participants continued success in the future.

HONORING THE CITY OF GALVESTON, THE PORT OF GALVESTON, AND CARNIVAL CRUISE LINES

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 22, 2000

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the City of Galveston, the Port of Galveston, and Carnival Cruise Lines on a very historic occasion. On September 27, 2000, the Texas Cruise Ship terminal at Pier 25 on Galveston Island will be rededicated. This \$10.6 million renovation and refurbishment of the historic 73-year-old terminal will equip the facility to serve as a home port for Carnival Cruise Line's 1,486-passenger vessel *Celebration*.

From the end of World War I until the late 1930s, luxury passenger ships owned by the Mallory Lines regularly sailed twice a week between Galveston and New York. A commitment was made in the mid-1980's by City of